

Twenty questions presented to a group of mechanical ladies in Pinckneyville, Illinois, at one of their meetings.

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PERRY COUNTY HISTORY QUIZ

1799 John Flack - near Pyatt area.

1. Who was the first known white settler in the Perry County area?
2. Who was the first white child born in Perry County? *Jno. Flack Jr. 1803*
3. What county was divided into three counties, one of which became Perry County? Date 1827? *Randolph - Monroe - Perry*
4. Name two 18th century trails that crossed Perry County. *Lewis & Clark, Shawnee, George Rogers Clark*
5. Where was Woodside Ford? *South of Pinckneyville (Crossed Bearcamp)*
6. Where is the oldest continuous County fair in the State? *Perry P'ville 1856*
7. What kind of mines were located at St. John, just north of Du Quoin? *Salt*
8. Where is the Opera House in Pinckneyville? *P. H. Hirsch*
9. Where was the first institution of higher learning in Southern Illinois? *Kemper 1839 - Locust Hill Academy*
Albion
10. Where is Campbell Cemetery? *South of Old Du Quoin*
11. What section of the County was settled by Danish people? *Denmark*
12. Where was a well-known female seminary located in the County? *Old St. Quoin*
13. What nationally known anti-saloon worker visited Pinckneyville during her campaign for prohibition? *Carry Nation - WWI*
14. What woman supposedly haunts the depths of an abandoned mine south of Pinckneyville? *Bibby Mine*
15. What Perry County town barely missed (by one vote) being the location of Southern Illinois University? *Jamaica - Coon Hill*
East
16. Name one of pre-Civil War "political" organizations that were the outgrowth of the slavery question and very active in the County? *Klu Klux Klan, Southern sympathizers, Knights of the Golden Circle*
17. When was the first Pinckneyville Methodist congregation organized? *1837*
18. When was the Illinois Central Railroad begun in Perry County? *Land purchase 1853 1850*
19. Where was the first Perry County Courthouse built? *Where 1st National Bank stands west side of square*
20. Name one of the County's first commissioners. *Murphy, Hutchings, Craig*

PERRY COUNTY HISTORY QUIZ

Twenty questions presented to a group of Methodist ladies in Pinckneyville at one of their meetings. I will include here the answers which were given by the questioner...some of which I disagree with and others just enlarging upon.

1. WHO WAS THE FIRST KNOWN WHITE SETTLER IN THE PERRY CO. AREA?

Ans...Flack in 1799. Some land also recorded to Cox...in the Pyatt area.

My comment...John Flack settled in the southwest quarter of section 11, T6S, R3W which is west of the Pyatt "Y" about two miles...now part of Pyramid State Park. Samuel Dill Rule lived here in 1902.

Joseph Cox was already here and lived on the only claim and survey in this county (#1410). This place is presently owned by Michael Epplin.

Following is an excerpt taken from the DuQuoin Evening Call printed 4 Oct 1955 reporting business, etc. before the Perry County Historical Society.....

"Tradition has it that the Joseph Cox family was already living in Perry County when John Flack and his family, generally regarded as the first settlers to locate here permanently, arrived in 1799, the amateur historians were told.

One hundred acres of land (claim 1410) were deeded to Cox before the year 1820 in payment for building a bridge across Beaucoup Creek on what was then known as Lusk's Ferry to Kaskaskia, according to records of Roe Abstract Company, Pinckneyville.

Today's travelers may locate the site of the Cox cabin after crossing Beaucoup bridge on route 152 by looking to the left as they approach the Dennis Byerly home. In a field southeast of the Byerly barn stand two persimmon trees. It was there, according to Byerly, that the cabin stood. A short distance west, is what is known as "House Cemetery", also in plain view from route 152, are the graves of the two small Cox children.

Legend has it that Cox may have buried some sort of treasure in or near the graves. About the time of WW I would-be robbers broke into the graves one cold, moonlight, night.

Cox was believe to have drowned in Galum Creek while making a journey home from Kaskaskia."

2. WHO WAS THE FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN IN PERRY COUNTY?

Ans...John Flack Jr. 1803.

My comment...John Flack Jr. b. 20 Apr 1803 in T6S, R3W near the Pyatt Community, died 26 Oct 1842 near Galena, Ill. (Rex Franklin, Vergennes, Il. has a picture of his tombstone which verifies these dates.)

From Pioneer Families of Randolph and Perry Counties, Il. by Robert Crawford Robertson, M.D. 1960, p/11, comes the following...

"John Flack b. abt. 1774 Rutherford Co., N.C., d. 22 Feb. 1836 at Galena, Il. Md. in N. C. to Sarah Milligan b. Iredell Co., N.C.; d. before 1836 at Galena, Il.

In 1799 they moved to Illinois where he was the second permanent white settler in Perry Co., locating near the present town of Pinckneyville. Because of a disagreement with his bro-in-law, Fergus Milligan, who moved to the same vicinity from Iredell Co., N.C. in 1827, he moved with his family to Galena, Il. about 1830.

John born 1803 was the fourth child of John and Sarah Flack. Milton b. 30 Sept 1805 in Perry Co.; Geo. Washington b. 25th Dec. 1811 in Perry Co.,; and Sarah the last child b. _____."

In an article appearing in the DuQuoin Evening Call (date of 24 Dec. 1900) it is stated that Lucy M. Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Humphry B. Jones, was born in Pinckneyville the 23rd of December 1827 and is called by them "First Person Born in Perry County, Illinois". She married 26 July 1846 the Rev. P. P. Hamilton and both are buried in the IOOF Cemetery in DuQuoin.

So John Flack, two brothers, and one sister, were actually born in that portion which later became Jackson, then Perry Co. Lucy M. Jones was born in 1827 after the formation of Perry Co. from the others and there, of course, will be the cause for discussion in this matter, and I suppose it is all in the way you look at it.

I wonder if the writer of the Lucy M. Jones story may have meant to say that she was the first white child born in Pinckneyville who was still living? There were enough settlers here by January of 1827 to enable them to form a county of their own and it does seem strange that none of them had any children born to them between Jan. and Dec. of 1827.

3. WHAT COUNTY WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE COUNTIES, ONE OF WHICH BECAME PERRY COUNTY? DATE _____?

Ans...Randolph, Monroe, and Perry. 1827

My comment...Randolph County was actually divided into many counties. An 1809 map shows the entire southern part of what later became Illinois (in 1818) was Randolph C. The line extended from present-day Monroe Co. on the Mississippi River, touched the extreme northwestern corner of what is now Randolph Co., and from there followed a direct line to the Wabash River between what is now Clark and Crawford Cos. The balance of the state was St. Clair from which Randolph was formed in 1795

4. NAME TWO 18th CENTURY TRAILS THAT CROSSED PERRY COUNTY.

Ans...Lewis and Clark; Shawnee____; George Rogers Clark.

My comment...Two of the oldest known and most prominent trails or traces in Perry Co. are the Lusk's Ferry on the Ohio to Kaskaskia, and the Kaskaskia to Vincennes Trail. Lusk's Ferry is now known as Golconda in Pope County, Illinois.

The Lusk's Ferry on the Ohio Trail to Kaskaskia traverses almost the entire width of Perry Co. from east to west, except for a short distance near Old DuQuoin to the Franklin Co. line. This trail enters Perry Co. in sec. 34, T6S, R1W from Jackson Co. and exits same in sec. 18, T6S, R4W. (See land notes which mention this road as early as 1807) (also Surveyor's Rcd. of 1835 on which it is actually shown). (These records in Office of County Clerk ...well preserved).

The Kaskaskia to Vincennes Trail crosses secs. five, six, and seven in T4S, R4W in Perry Co. Take the road north from Coulterville in Randolph Co. toward their city cemetery. The trail begins in Perry Co. on the NW corner of seventy-eight acres now owned by Howard K. Frieman, then exits Perry Co. into Washington between the lands of Joseph Hundleth and Andrew Jones. George Rogers Clark took this (or approximately the same) route on his way from Kaskaskia to Vincennes in February of 1779, after his capture of Kaskaskia in July of 1778...but what is usually called the George Rogers Clark Trail from Ft. Massac to Kaskaskia in 1778 did not enter Perry County at any point.

The Lewis and Clark Trail began near Woodriver, Illinois, at the mouth of Wood River, May 14th, 1804, and ended at the Pacific Ocean...never in or near Perry County, Illinois.

Does the questioner mean the Shawneetown Trail here? The Lusk's Ferry on the Ohio to Kaskaskia road is often referred to as the Shawneetown Trail. I have based my comments on the way the government surveyor listed it in 1835.

5. WHERE IS WOODSIDE FORD?

Ans...South of Pinckneyville. (Crossed Beaucoup)

My comment...This is correct and was located in sec. 6, T6S, R2W, on land now owned by the Timpner Family. Quite a recreational spot in the early days.

WOODSIDE FORD

by

Edward Timpner

Woodside Ford was located three and one half miles south of Pinckneyville in T6S, R2W of 3rd PM Perry Co., Ill. On the south east 1/2 line of section 6 joining the north east 1/2 line of section 7.

One Hundred Twenty acres on south side running east and west of the ford was granted in 1828 to Samuel Woodside's father after whom the ford was named.

The road ran northeast and south. I have been told that Hawkins Ozburn was a mail carrier over the route before he settled in Perry County. This ford was the only ford crossing Beaucoup Creek that had a solid smooth rock shallow bottom. The north bank was about eleven feet high. The south side had a bank about thirty feet high with a slanting bank far above high water. On the west side, as we crossed the ford, was called the deep hole about 1/4 mile long which gradually sloped to a depth of sixteen feet, (all smooth rock bottom), clear and clean.

In my youth some people did their washing here. When there was a drouth, people drove their cattle to drink, others hauled water. Thrashers hauled water for their engines miles away. They could drive in, turn around, and let the water run into their tanks.

On Sundays men and boys would bathe and some would swim their horses. On the east side of the ford water would be from 5 to 12 inches deep about 1/4 mile distance. Children enjoy wading and men would drive back and forth in their buggies to see the water splash and wash their buggies. Where they turned at the east end were the riffles. These riffles were formed by boulders averaging about 3 1/2 feet wide and 6 feet long about one to two feet apart. There were three rows across the creek about two feet high. Here one could cross without getting a wet shoe when water was 14 inches deep at the ford.

South of the riffles about 200 yards was an Indian Mound and an Indian Village. I could tell by the small heape of rocks where the wigwams were located. Here and across the bottom on the south side of Harris Lake I found many Indian rocks.

On the south side of the ford running east is where the picnic grounds were located. The first picnic I recall was in 1881. It was gotten up by a group of German speaking and American boys. At that time my father had a woods pasture; the German speaking group were in the pasture and danced around the old mill race and the American group were across the fence.

Here Adam Knapp and Eliza Epplin met and were married within a year. Many Pinckneyville and DuQuoin young people spent pleasant hours here. In 1840 to 1860 there were four homes and a horse power mill within 1/4 mile of the ford. About 1904 W.S.Wilson and Rube Rushing built a nice summer home here using it a number of years.

After the stock law was voted in, the woods grew up in brush and briers. There were many beautiful flowers along the creek bank and flowering trees. The black and red Haw, the plum, the red bud, the crabapple, the papaw, the wild cherry and mulberry have vanished, and last of all the strip mines have devoured the good earth."

Written for the Perry County Historical Society 1955-1956 under the name of "Proceedings".

6. WHERE IS THE OLDEST CONTINUOUS COUNTY FAIR IN THE STATE?

Ans...Pinckneyville 1856.

7. WHAT KIND OF MINES WERE LOCATED IN ST. JOHN, JUST NORTH OF DUQUOIN

Ans...Salt.

My comment...Salt and coal.

8. WHERE IS THE OPERA HOUSE IN PINCKNEYVILLE?

Ans. P. N. Hirsch store.

My comment...this is correct. Built about 1894-1895 by Mr. Jacob M. Kunze. Now owned by McDaniel and Wilson in 1983.

9. WHERE WAS THE FIRST INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING IN SO.ILL.?

Ans...Kimzey House. 1839. Known as Locust Hill Academy.

My comment...SW corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec 5, T5S, R1W on land now owned by Calvin Ibendahl and wife. The educator was Mr. B. G. Roots. South of Tamaroa a short distance off Rt.#51. First in Perry County but ~~not~~ not in So.Illinois.

10. WHERE IS CAMPBELL CEMETERY?

Ans...South of Old DuQuoin.

My comment...The cemetery to which the questioner refers is located in the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of sec 3 $\frac{1}{4}$, T6S, R1W. The old Lusk's Ferry to Kaskaskia Trail is visible near the south end of the cemetery in a SE to NW direction. The oldest marked grave is that of Elizabeth, wife of G.W.Campbell who d. 19 Sep 1842 aged 42y 4m 27d.

1700
Jesuits ON
KASKASKIA
15L
WGL: EWING IN KASK. 1822
See P/10.

There is another Campbell Cemetery northeast of Pinckneyville in sec. 10, T5S, R2W. One very old part to the north and a newer addition south of it. One of the early burials in 1853.

11. WHAT SECTION OF THE COUNTY WAS SETTLED BY DANISH PEOPLE?

Ans...Denmark.

My comment...Denmark located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 24, T6S, R4W was platted by John D. Rees April 1st, 1860 under the name of DENMARK. I cannot determine why this name as he was born in Illinois. His parents and several brothers came to Perry Co. from Kentucky and Rees' Creek near DuQuoin was named for this family. No evidence that there was any Danish ancestry. The story told is that Denmark was so named for the storekeeper, Chris Wittmac, who came from there.

There is no basis for this inasmuch as he and his wife, as well as the parents of both, were from Germany. Chris and wife did not come to Denmark until about 1883, twenty-three years after the town was actually platted and named. (See Perry Co., Ill. deed rcd. "S" p/242). Early census report (1850) shows no people in the area as being Danish. (1860)

12. WHERE WAS A WELL-KNOWN FEMALE SEMINARY LOCATED IN THE COUNTY?

Ans...Old DuQuoin.

My comment...Established in 1853, the only church-sponsored female seminary in southern Illinois. Seven former students were present at the dedication of marker (Rt.14 in Old DuQuoin near the Shook store) on Sunday, May 27th, 1956. They were:

Mrs. Ada Johnson	DuQuoin, Ill.
Mrs. Susan Morris	DuQuoin, Ill.
Mrs. May Baker	DuQuoin, Ill.
Mrs. W. O. Edwards	Pinckneyville, Ill.
Mrs. Carrie Davison	Pinckneyville, Ill.
Mrs. Nettie Dixon	Springfield, Ill.
Mr. George E. Smith	Pana, Ill.

Made by inmates of the Pontiac State Prison and erected by the State Dept. of Highways, the marker bears this inscription:

"DuQuoin Female Seminary - On this hill to the east was the DuQuoin Female Seminary, founded by the Boston Ladies Soc. for the promotion of Christian education. Later, as DuQuoin Academy, it was co-educational. The three-story, brick, building, then an orphanage, was closed in 1893. It burned in October of 1898."

Vandals soon destroyed the marker.

13. WHAT NATIONALLY KNOWN ANTI-SALOON WORKER VISITED PINCKNEYVILLE DURING HER CAMPAIGN FOR PROHIBITION?

Ans...Carry Nation. WWI.

My comment...The following taken from the DuQuoin Evening Call as of Tues. the 4th of Oct. 1955 - Report of Perry Co. Historical Society proceedings:

"Details of Carrie Nation's Cutler visit were contained in a letter written by her from Johnston City on Oct. 22nd, 1905, to officials of the W.C. & W. RR. The letter is now the property of the H.C.Cole Milling Company of Chester, Ill.

The famous crusader traveled over the railroad from Pinckneyville to Cutler, where she was a guest of Mrs. Margaret Harshaw, wife of Rev. Michael Harshaw, then pastor of the United Presbyterian Church there.

She complained that young men were smoking in the Cutler depot and filled the ladies waiting room with this poison. When she called the agent's attention to the condition he "acted sullen", she said, and replied that "he could not control all the people of Cutler".

The woman, who signed her letter "Your Home Defender", later learned that the agent, Thomas White, was Mrs. Harshaw's son-in-law."

I might add that this could not have taken place around World War I time inasmuch as Mrs. Nation retired to Eureka Springs, Mo. in January of 1911 and died in a Leavenworth hospital on June 9th of that same year. (See St.Louis Globe Democrat "Hatchetwoman Carry" by Louis LaCoss - Sunday Jan. 17th, 1960).

Have never heard or read of Mrs. Nation wrecking any havoc in Pinckneyville and it seems from the above letter that she stopped here just to catch the train to Cutler.

Her name is written as Carrie as well as Carry. The Globe article indicates she was born Carry Amelia Moore and was under the delusion that she was Queen Victoria who had been denied her royal rights because of court intrigue.

14. WHAT WOMAN SUPPOSEDLY HAUNTS THE DEPTHS OF AN ABANDONED MINE SOUTH OF PINCKNEYVILLE?

Ans...Biby Mine

My comment...The questioner does not answer her own question as to who the woman was. After quite a few inquiries I can find no one who has ever heard this story. Dale Biby, whose family owned this mine said he never heard of this but does know that there are strange sounds in a deep mine - but they are made by gasses and drafts....not a woman.

This mine was south of what is known as the Yellow Banks Road leading to Beaucoup Creek.

15. WHAT PERRY COUNTY TOWN BARELY MISSED (BY ONE VOTE) BEING THE LOCATION OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY?

Ans...Coon Hill east of Tamaroa.

16. NAME ONE OF THE PRE-CIVIL WAR "POLITICAL" ORGANIZATIONS THAT WERE THE OUTGROWTH OF THE SLAVERY QUESTION AND VERY ACTIVE IN THE COUNTY.

Ans...Klu Klux Klan, Southern Sympathizers, Knights of the Golden Circle.

My comment...Knights of the Golden Circle a/k/a Order of American Knights a/k/a Order of the Sons of Liberty; Ku Klux Klan; and Copperheads, a subversive organization. *KLAN AFTER CIVIL WAR*

Geo.W. Wall; D.M.Hoge; E.B.Rushing; Thos.Rushing; S.A.Baird; S.M.Pyle; Dr.Ross; O.H.Carver; Bedford Turman; W.A.Harris; Stephen Duncan; were among many others in Perry Co., Il. belonging to the Clan. There was a meeting held ten miles north of Pinckneyville where these men were present.

Seventy-one men drilled in uniform in Paradise Prairie, at which time letters were read from Jeff Davis and Gen.Beauregard.

See Anti Administration and Pro-Southern Sentiment in Southern Illinois during Civil War by Robert L. Johnson, SIU, Carbondale, Il. Book Q977.30 J 68a.

Mr. Raymond E. Lee wrote in the Proceedings of the Perry Co. Historical Society 1955-1956.."Perry Co. and the Civil War, 1860-1864" that "The strongest pro-Southern organization in Perry County was the Knights of the Golden Circle reputedly led by Josh Teague. This group met and drilled regularly at the Hampleman home (who were relatives of Jeff Davis) and at other locations in Paradise Prairie in the eastern part of the county".

Charges were often brought against those who favored the Union cause and twenty-five of these cases were tried in Perry Co. Circuit Court during their April Term 1863. They were accused of "Bringing Blacks in to the State". They were from Cutler, Pinckneyville, Tamaroa, DuQuoin, Old DuQuoin, McElvain Settlement west of DuQuoin, and Pyatts. The defense is interesting and every one of those accused had their cases "Quashed". These are to be found among the Criminal Records in Perry County Circuit Court. From the accusations made it would seem that all twenty-five were no doubt involved in the "Underground Railroad".

17. WHEN WAS THE FIRST PINCKNEYVILLE METHODIST CONGREGATION ORGANIZED?

Ans...1837.

My comment...Organized by nine people. Met first in the home of Humphry B. Jones, then in the courthouse. Later worshiped in the schoolhouse, then the Temperance Hall, before building their own building in 1857.

18. WHEN WAS THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD BEGUN IN PERRY CO.?

Ans...1853. Land purchased in 1850.

19. WHERE WAS THE FIRST PERRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE BUILT?

Ans...Where the 1st Nat. Bank stands - west side of the square.

My comment...Built on lot #32 Original Plat of Pinckneyville in 1828. A two-story structure 18 x 22 feet, made of logs at a cost of \$54.00 by Berry Anderson.

In 1983 this is the location of the law offices of Hohlt, House, DeMoss and Johnson, #1 N. Main Street, Pinckneyville, Ill.

20. NAME ONE OF THE COUNTY'S FIRST COMMISSIONERS.

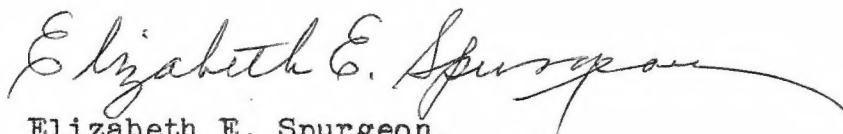
Ans...Murphy, Hutchings, Craig.

My comment...The first record of commissioners who were sworn into office were: John R. Hutchings; David H. Mead; and Elijah Wells. This occurred 4 June 1827 when they met at the home of Amos Anderson two and one-half miles east of Pinckneyville on the DuQuoin-Pinckneyville Road.

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Perry County was formed from Randolph County and the northern township of Jackson County as of January 29th, 1827.

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Elizabeth E. Spurgeon,
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December 1983.

ADDENDUM

Question #9 p/5...WHERE WAS THE FIRST INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING
IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

My further comment in answer to this question....
See p/232 McDonnough's History of Randolph, Monroe,
and Perry Cos., Il 1883.....

....."it is a matter of history that as early as
1720 the Jesuits founded a COLLEGE at Kaskaskia,
which flourished until 1754, and schools of a
lower grade probably existed at a still earlier
date".

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As copied by Eliz^b E. Spurgeon,
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1985

Question 9
PP5-10

McDonnough on p/235 also states that
Rev. Samuel Wiley, assisted by G. T. Ewing,
opened an Academy in Kaskaskia and carried on
until about 1829 from its beginning in 1822.

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An Academy is an intermediate school between the
Common School and College.

A College is a school of higher learning.

EES

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See McDonnough's History of Randolph, Monroe, and Perry Cos., Il 1883.

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